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Date: July 9, 2004

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "First Class Mail" service.

Donald S. Prater
Name (Print)

Donald S. Prater
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-----------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|------------|
| In re Application of: | Robert MARIANI |) | Examiner: | Unassigned |
| | |) | | |
| Application No.: | 10/828,789 |) | Group Art Unit: | Unassigned |
| | |) | | |
| Filed: | April 21, 2004 |) | Confirmation No.: | Unassigned |
| | |) | | |
| Docket No. | 02104CIP (3600-419-01) |) | | |

For: A METHOD OF FORMING SINTERED VALVE METAL MATERIAL

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 9, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Since this application has a filing date after June 30, 2003, no copies of U.S. Patents/Patent Application Publications are provided.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear

Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/828,789

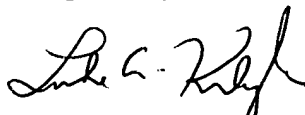
on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

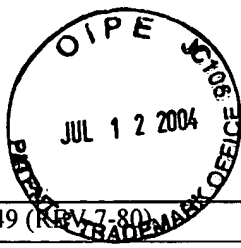
It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0925.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No.: 02104CIP (3600-419-01)
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Enclosures: Form PTO 1449 with 5 documents



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|---|---|----------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 (Rev. 7-80) | Atty. Docket No. 02104CIP (3600-419-01) | Application No. 10/828,789 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT | APPLICANT: Robert Mariani | |
| | Filing Date: April 21, 2004 | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER'S INITIALS | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | FILING DATE, IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|----------|------------------|-------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| | | 2002/0132388 A1 | 09/19/02 | Rosenberg et al. | | | |
| | | 6,323,055 B1 | 11/27/01 | Rosenberg et al. | 438 | 77 | |
| | | 6,348,113 B1 | 02/19/02 | Michaluk et al. | 148 | 668 | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|--|--|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | | Hei 3[1991]-197640 | 08/29/91 | Japan | C22C | 27/02 | yes | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | West, "Solid State Chemistry and Its Applications," Wiley, New York, pp. 655-656 (1984) |
| | German, "Sintering Theory and Practice," Wiley, New York, pp 73-89 (1996) |
| | Rolsten, "Iodide Metals and Metal Iodides," Wiley, New York, pp 110-119 (1961) |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.